

Second Statewide I. S. A. Meeting

Peoria Is Host to Illinois Society of Architects

Promptly at 1:40 on Saturday, October 23, the shining diesel-motored "Rocket" of the Rock Island R. R. landed its passengers at Peoria. Among these was a party destined to the I. S. A. meeting. From many sections of the state came more participants by other railroads and by auto, and after being cordially welcomed at Hotel Pere Marquette, quartered, registered and badged, the whole party was transported by automobiles to the Hiram Walker & Sons' new distillery where architects were to see the largest and most modern distillery buildings and equipment in the world. At a cost of \$9,000,000 this plant was erected and equipped in 1934 and 1935. The architects were Smith, Hinchman & Grylls of Detroit.

The Visit to Hiram Walker & Sons, Inc.

A stroll through the distillery's streets between high, simple, buttressed masonry walls, spotted effectively with windows, the walls embracing a lower, more sensitively designed Administration Building, was a demonstration of the power and dignity that may be achieved in industrial architecture. At one end was a tall building whose masonry was confined to the fireproofing of structural supports with all else glass and metal spandrels, an exterior that would warm the heart of every glass fan among designers. By intelligent guides the party was taken through sections of the plant beginning with the Administration Building, through others, encountering on the way huge three story high copper fermenters, through the barrel plant, all under government inspection, past the internal revenue inspectors' office, and finally to the tap room where the company was treated to a taste of the product of the plant.

Items strongly impressed upon the minds of the visitors were the scrupulous cleanliness in- and outdoors, the accurate testing at every stage, the splendid order and quietude. Statistically, too, certain facts were burned into the memory. The plant uses twenty carloads of the choicest grain per day and Uncle Sam receives on an average \$100,000 internal revenue tax paid daily.

Interlude and Dinner

A drive through Peoria at dusk, interesting silhouettes, the return to the hotel, a short rest and at 6 o'clock a reception before being seated at the 6:30 dinner meeting.

A count showed that there were ninety-one present at this meeting, which included a few of the members' wives. There came from Peoria 33, Chicago 23, Springfield 14, Joliet 4, Moline 3, Kewanee, Riverside, Champaign—each 2, Rockford, Bloomington, Lake Forest, Glencoe, Quincy, Rock Island—each 1; one from St. Louis, Mo., and one from Scranton, Pa. It was a genial, companionable company and when the good dinner had been consumed, Herbert E. Hewitt of Peoria, Chairman of the Committee on Arrangements, welcomed all to Peoria in a few graceful words and turned the meeting over to President Elmer Jensen.

The President was happy in his remarks of appreciation and followed with an historical sketch of the Society, emphasizing that this meeting occurred in its forty-first year. The Secretary read the minutes of the September 28 meeting where John Holabird and

Moholy-Nagy had been the star speakers.

The President proceeded to introduce the first speaker on the program—Leo H. Pleins, Division of Architecture and Engineering, Department of Public Works and Buildings, Springfield, who through experience has come to the conclusion that the passage of a basic state building code for Illinois is an immediate necessity. Mr. Pleins read his convincing paper, a condensation of which appears in another column of this issue.

C. Herrick Hammond, Supervising Architect for the State of Illinois, who was to be the next speaker, was unavoidably detained elsewhere and Joseph F. Booton of Springfield, a member of Mr. Hammond's staff, substituted. His subject was "State Parks." Illustrated booklets on this subject recently printed by the state were distributed. Mr. Booton stated that before 1932 state park acreage was 3,754 while today it is 9,367. Robert Kingery, the speaker held, would be known to posterity as the father of Illinois state parks. Mr. Kingery will be remembered for his uncanny knowledge of the state, its population, its scenery, its history, its recreational hopes and plans, from his address before the Society in Chicago a year ago.

Mr. Booton dwelt on the absurdly small funds appropriated by the legislature for the development and maintenance of these parks. Assistance was obtained from CCC camps in 1933, followed by certain Federal funds which helped advance the development of these recreational spots from 30 to 35 years. At Starved Rock Park an inadequate and unsatisfactory hotel exists which, Mr. Booton promised, will be replaced by a new one by June 1938. He spoke of Jubilee College State Park which the company was to visit the next morning, exhibiting plans of the L-shaped stone college building and chapel built there in 1839 under the guiding hand of Episcopal Bishop Chase who founded the college in 1837.

Irving K. Pond was introduced by President Jensen with great good humor and Mr. Pond responded in a like vein. Secretary Fairclough says that he spoke from 9:03 to 9:10 P. M., was in good form, making a number of clever allusions to present architects and telling his famous reservoir story. A policeman saw an inebriate Irishman hovering suspiciously at the edge of the reservoir in Central Park. The policeman asked, "What are you doing here so late at night?" The Irishman pointed to the reflection of the moon far below in the pool. "Is that the moon down there?" he asked, and the policeman replied, "It is." "Then what in God's name am I doing up here?" said the Irishman. Mr. Pond said he knew why he was in Peoria. He was there to be the stooge for Louis La Beaume. In fact, he was the Charlie McCarthy on La Beaume's knee, replying to the erudite remarks of Mr. La Beaume with "Oh, yeah?" and "So's your old man!"

After this the President asked for suggestions of a city where the next statewide meeting should be held in 1938. Ernest L. Stouffer of Champaign on behalf of his city extended a cordial invitation to hold the meeting there. Champaign-Urbana is the home of the state university with handsome buildings lining its impressive campus. Mr. Stouffer was thanked and assured that in all likelihood the Board of Directors would select Champaign for the next statewide meeting.

The President now introduced the noted architect, writer and

the profession's foremost after-dinner speaker—Louis La Beaume of St. Louis. Mr. La Beaume had returned from a leisurely European trip a week before. Mrs. La Beaume had selected a slow boat and after nearly two weeks on the water, he and she landed in Naples. The subject assigned Mr. La Beaume was "Architectural and Other Impressions of Europe Today"—a large order, but he fulfilled that order in such a brilliant, humorous and penetrating way that his listeners after the hour he consumed would have been glad to sit and listen another hour.

Mr. La Beaume Pilots the Cruise

After listening to Mr. Booton's trials in aiming to achieve for the State of Illinois without adequate appropriations, the speaker finds Europe today extravagant compared to the regime of Governor Horner. The speaker waxes warm over the handsome new pier with its equipment in Naples, calls it modern and functional and says it clicks. He finds all over Italy exuberant spending, experimentation in design and criticism of design very superficial. Europe and Mexico are ahead of us in daring in the use of new materials and design. The Naples post office, provincial palace and new apartments are outstanding in the use of marble and glass in new forms.

Palermo has many new buildings. It is larger than Rome and one of the most important cities in Italy. The mosaics of Monreale Cathedral are brilliant, notwithstanding their great age. Venice was approached from the Adriatic by boat and pronounced truly the Adriatic's pearl. On the mainland, back of Venice, is a new tall, simple, modern ramp garage. Budapest was visited and impressed through its fine location and fine buildings. In Vienna the speaker sought out housing projects which Alfred Granger had talked so much about. These are generally court buildings, built for utility and having few frills. The Karl Marx housing, which played a part in a recent revolution, seemed an endless facade.

The new railroad station in Florence, Italy, he finds convenient, beautiful and impressive. Rome is disappointing and heavy. The new university buildings there are to him distressing, lacking in lightness, grace or elegance. The scale is large, uninteresting and appears to reflect the personality of Mussolini.

The speaker noted the legends and mottoes of Mussolini's propaganda throughout Italy and placards with exhortations of "Believe, Obey, Fight" in evidence like billboards all over the country. Mr. La Beaume feels that the practice of architecture under such conditions is infinitely worse than in PWA projects.

In the Paris Exposition he finds many wonderful things, among these being the two great axes. He disagrees with John Holabird regarding the Exposition in a number of instances. Of Henry Russell Hitchcock whose critique of the Paris Fair appeared in the September "Architectural Forum," he says, "Hitchcock is a critic and not an architect." The distinction is apparent in his review.

He admires the new Trocadero Museum. Russia's building he pronounces effective and recognizes Frank Lloyd Wright's influence, but the dominating feature is the haunting, huge figures atop the building. Both Russia and Germany in their Fair buildings he pronounces defiant. Germany's building is too huge and obscures certain essential features of the Fair. Finland's building, many kiosks and entrances are very interesting.

The Museum of Modern Art, a permanent structure, gives him a lift with its present surroundings, but he questions its appearance when other Fair buildings shall have been removed. The exhibits in this museum he grows enthusiastic over. It is the art of Europe in retrospect, beginning with the earliest times and coming down to the present. The exhibit of Renaissance paintings produces admiration and Tintoretto as shown in this exhibition produces ecstasy.

On returning to his native land and learning what his conferees have been thinking and talking about, he comes to The New Bauhaus in Chicago where Moholy-Nagy presides. He finds their language obscure, an effort to be the masters of universality, but

what architects most desire—he among them—is to be left alone with a few tractable clients.

Turning to housing Mr. La Beaume asked, "Have you read the effusion in the October 'American Architect' by a group of young architects temporarily in Federal employ on housing?" These men have a round table discussion about housing, the profession's equipment to handle it, and the results. This gives him the jitters and he is surprised, unimpressed, and amazed at the editors of the magazine over the elaborate and costly presentation of such vaporings.

Bureaucracy in Washington is the big problem of architecture and business, though the future for architects looks good to him and he urges his associates to assume current responsibilities toward changing trends rather than along sociological lines.

Modern housing had been studied and attempted in European countries before our efforts. There they had achieved and had made mistakes. No doubt we have made mistakes, but we shall continue our efforts. They cost money, of course, and to get this money the speaker proposes that we borrow it from our European debtors and not pay it back.

In the matter of prefabrication, again so much in print, he feels there is no danger of houses ever being produced like automobiles due to the variety and independence of taste of the American public. He concludes with a statement of unbounded faith in the continuance and the progress of the American architect.

The dinner meeting adjourned to be continued by little groups in the tap room and parlors, discussing the various subjects posed by the speakers.

Peoria's Environs and Jubilee College

At 10 o'clock on Sunday morning a tour in automobiles began through the picturesque Peoria park system, passing many fine homes designed by Hewitt & Emerson and other Peoria architects, the Peoria Country Club, and finally, Jubilee College—fourteen miles in a northwesterly direction from Peoria. Jubilee College with its ninety-six acres of rolling country became a state park by gift in 1933. The old college building with walls of stone from local quarries was erected in 1839 by Episcopal Bishop Philander Chase with funds raised in England and small additions from people in America. It is an L-shaped structure with hand-hewn wood shingle roof. For a number of years the building remained unused. Now out of repair, the state will rehabilitate it as a museum. Close by is an old burying ground where Bishop Chase was buried in 1852. Bishop Chase was the first Episcopal bishop in Illinois. He was the founder of Kenyon College, Ohio.

Returning to Peoria, the company dispersed to various parts of the state, having renewed old acquaintances, made new ones, and listened to discussions of subjects near and dear to them.

—A. W.

Elevated Highway Competition

The American Institute of Steel Construction (200 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.) announces a national competition for the most suitable structural and architectural design of an elevated highway. The competition extends from the date of announcement to March 31, 1938 when the competitors' designs must be in the hands of the Institute. The awards are: First Prize \$5000; Second Prize \$2000; Third Prize \$1000; Ten Honorable Mention Awards, each \$100.

The Jury of Award consists of Harland Bartholomew, City Planner, St. Louis; Col. Willard Chevalier, President, American Road Builders Association, New York; Paul P. Cret, Architect, Philadelphia; Loran D. Gayton, City Engineer, Department of Public Works, Chicago; Paul G. Hoffman, President, The Studebaker Corporation, South Bend, Ind.; Albert Kahn, Architect, Detroit; C. M. Pinckney, Chief Engineer, Borough of Manhattan, New York.

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Editor Monthly Bulletin

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October 9, 1937 marked the 66th anniversary of the great Chicago Fire which consumed 18,000 buildings and wiped out \$200,000,000 of property values. While the majority of the buildings were frame, there were also structures with walls of masonry and, in the case of banks, fire resisting floor construction. But with a strong southwest wind and a rainless season, wood window frames and ordinary glass, the fire could not be resisted.

About 25 years ago, the late Daniel H. Burnham, famous architect, whose firm had designed many of Chicago's most advanced fire safe tall buildings at the time he spoke, addressed the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. on fire safe building. He stated that a fire fanned by strong winds could at that later date create untold destruction by reason of the fuel from lumber yards to the southwest as well as thousands of frame buildings, notwithstanding the advance in fire safe construction and more efficient fire fighting apparatus.

Mr. Burnham's prophecy had a demonstration only a few years after he spoke in the burning of the Burlington office building, a so-called fireproof structure located one block from a sprinklered mill-constructed 5 or 6 story building where the fire originated. The fire swept through the upper stories of the Burlington building, burning window frames, melting glass, spawling terra cotta and brick, completely burning the interior of offices and leaving only bricked-in stairway towers unburned.

Between the time of the Chicago Fire and Mr. Burnham's speech there had been much progress in the development of burnt fire clay tile for floor arches, steel columns, and other vital parts, and credit must be given to two men for this advance—Peter B. Wight and E. V. Johnson. Since their time there have been great fires in Rochester, San Francisco, and Baltimore.

Reinforced concrete today plays a large part in permanent construction and concrete divides the field with burnt clay for fireproofing. We have also for insulation non-combustible fiber materials. But with all these improvements, with more rigid building laws, who can say that we are able to build fireproof buildings, or even fire safe buildings?

New building codes are framed on the basis of time resistance to fires by various materials. This is an intelligent change. For what can not be melted in a crucible, and great holocausts are like crucible fires!

Experts on fire safety are rapidly coming to the conclusion that safety against fire in buildings cannot be measured without consideration of the quantity of combustible content and its location with respect to external hazards.

Government experiments indicate that clothes moths are not disturbed by air scented with cedar, dried lavender, tobacco, tar, pine oil, cedar oil, or camphor.

Mr. Pleins' Address on State Building Code

We find all classes of buildings being erected in smaller communities throughout the state with no regulation to govern their construction and it is but natural to assume that many essentials of good construction and all that it involves in its broadest sense are omitted, due to unskilled and careless planning.

Inferior construction and improper sanitation of buildings can have only one result—loss to the owner and to the community. Frequently such construction proves to be an actual danger to the community as a fire hazard with the attendant danger of loss of life and damage to persons and property.

In communities having no water supply and sewer system, the provision of such service must be given careful study, and approval by the State Department of Public Health obtained on the source of the water supply and design of the sewage disposal system before proceeding with the work.

I have made an exhaustive study of the subject, especially as to the respective merits of municipal and state codes, and I shall endeavor to give you the respective advantages and disadvantages.

The October-November issue of our Monthly Bulletin has given you the number of cities over 5000 population having codes as well as those having none. The difficulties encountered in the City of Chicago in passing its municipal code will present themselves in every other city undertaking the same work. The reasons for this are the following: 1. Obstruction by persons who consider the regulations about to be imposed detrimental to their personal interest, regardless of the welfare to the public. 2. Endeavors by contractors, realtors, material men, etc. to include or exclude items. 3. Cost to the municipality of printing such codes. 4. Politicians who desire plenty of loopholes in order that zoning and building restrictions will still permit them to take care of items under "special privileges." Obviously, then, the adoption of codes by municipalities will necessarily be restricted to those cities possessing sufficient public spirit and surplus funds.

Under existing conditions, this means that very few cities will be able to undertake this work even if they realize the need for such form of protection, and it is in consideration of these facts that we recommend the adoption of a state building code—a code basic and covering the real essentials in building construction, sanitation and safe-guarding the individual as well as the public in general.

While the sole purpose of building codes is to insure public safety, health and general welfare, their value as a potent economic factor deserves consideration. Recent disasters, such as earthquakes, floods, high winds and fires with heavy contribution to building and life loss have startled the public.

To quote from the report of the Building Code Committee, Department of Commerce 1925:

"The great advantage resulting from the adoption of such a code is the general betterment in character of buildings, which in turn improves the cities' appearance, benefits health conditions, and diminishes fire hazards. A proper building code, well enforced over a period long enough to influence the character of construction, reduces the probability of fire spread in individual buildings and lessens the conflagration hazard. Good building laws afford insurance underwriters a foundation for establishing a base rate, and mean from 15 to 25% in total number of points. In addition to this pecuniary advantage to the citizens as a whole, there are usually substantial reductions in premiums on insurance policies covering individual buildings, resulting from the improved construction required by ordinance. The total of such reductions aggregates a considerable financial sum."

Recently, following a series of disastrous fires, particularly that of the Hotel Kerns at Lansing, the State of Michigan passed a law that makes the architect and engineer responsible for structural safety of design. This law is to the effect that if the architect and engineer fail to take steps necessary to assure fire-safe construction in school and other public buildings, they will not only be liable to have their licenses revoked, but may be prosecuted for misdemeanor. (H. B. 294.)

The last session of the Illinois General Assembly authorized the creation of a municipal code commission which is to attempt the revision and simplification of statutes relating to cities. It may be possible to have this commission cooperate to the extent of adopt-

ing a state code. We have a sufficient number of object lessons in the state of Illinois during the past years to make us realize the necessity for proper regulation.

The Department of Public Works and Buildings nearly every week receives letters from individuals and corporations requesting information as to state building and sanitary codes. It is most embarrassing to be forced to reply that there are none.

A case in point. Country schools, no restriction as to safe construction, safe exits, proper sanitation, a safe source of water supply and sewage disposal. You whizz by one of these located on a hard road and you probably say, "Thank God my children do not have to go to that school." Fortunate man, but how about those who must?

Unless our laws and regulations are just and fair to all the people, they will of necessity prove failures. In conclusion I urge every member of our profession to give his fullest cooperation to further the adoption of a comprehensive state building code.

—Leo H. Pleins, Chairman, I. S. A. State Building Code Committee.

Demand Repeal of Profits Tax Law

Aroused through experience to the realization that the undistributed profits tax law passed by the last Congress is choking off many industrial building projects and products of capital industries involved in building projects, President Jensen—after consultation with his Board of Directors of the Illinois Society of Architects—called a meeting of the forty-two outstanding trade organizations and professional bodies making up the building industry of Chicago. They met at Hotel Sherman on November 4 to discuss the repeal of this tax law and took decisive action.

About sixty men were present. Elmer C. Jensen was made chairman and Stanley Fairclough, secretary.

In Mr. Jensen's introductory remarks he referred to three types of Federal taxes: First, corporation income tax; second, surtax on undistributed profits; third, excess profits tax. He said his purpose was to arouse architects and builders from their lethargy in this matter. Architect John A. Holabird stated it was obvious a resolution should be passed. Benjamin F. Affleck, past-president of Universal Atlas Portland Cement Company, was prepared with a resolution which he read. Here is the resolution:

"WHEREAS, our Congress has seen fit to place a surtax on undistributed profits of industrial corporations, and

"WHEREAS, the effect of this tax is to place an extraordinary additional cost on building construction and other improvements desired by these corporations, and

"WHEREAS, the claimed motive for this tax is to increase the income of the government instead of which the actual results are to lessen the income because of the stifling effect on the earnings of the building construction industry and the so-called capital goods industries,

"THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the representatives of the professional organizations and the forty-two trade associations comprising the building construction interests of Chicago here assembled, that the Congress at its next session be, and is hereby respectfully petitioned, to repeal said surtax on Undistributed Profits at once, and

"BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be sent to the President of the United States, to each United States Senator, and to each member of the House of Representatives."

This resolution was passed unanimously, the speakers following its passage confining themselves rather to broadening than to restricting it.

Mr. Affleck pronounced the law entirely clear to any eighth grade pupil and needed only publicity to kill it. Architect Bollenbacher referred to the National Construction League as proposing to exempt building from this tax. Patrick Sullivan, President, Building Trades Council offered full cooperation from his body. Alfred Alschuler pleaded for the widest distribution of the resolution throughout the country to make it most effective. Oscar Rosenthal, representing the Building Construction Employers Association, pictured vividly the situation—no market for mortgages, for projects financed by stock distribution, and an owner having 50% of the cost of his building to advance is unable to borrow the other 50%.

"Old Bill" Suggests

(Reprinted from Chicago Daily News of Nov. 10, 1937)

What is called the "tax on surplus" is practically a law that prevents corporations from using money earned during the year; they are required to pay everything out to stockholders. The tax ranges from 7 to 27 per cent and if all earnings are retained, averages 20½ per cent. On top of 13½ to 15 per cent corporate income tax, this is backbreaking.

The name "surplus tax" is good press agency, but the law means in practice that no corporation, except in extreme emergency, can use earnings to build plants, install machinery, or pay debts. If it borrows from the banks, it cannot even (without being hit by the tax) use earnings to repay the loan.

There need be no wonder that jobs tend to shrink. Below is a letter written by a business man here in Chicago who has the welfare of his employees in mind, as well as his own resentment against red tape that is tying his hands and preventing sound and desirable activity. He calls his letter

"A MESSAGE TO AMERICAN LABOR"

"Consider the surtax on undistributed earnings and what it means to you. Do you know that from 1930 to 1934 inclusive, corporations of the country paid out \$21,260,000,000 more than they took in?

"Do you know that this was possible only because in prior years a portion of the income earned was set aside for just such a rainy day? Do you realize that without such savings labor as a whole would have been far worse off than it was?

"Do you know that any earnings now kept in the business are taxed heavily? Is it not clear that if earnings decline or stop, men will be laid off much faster than ever before?

"Do you understand that the tax on undistributed earnings enacted in 1936 is holding back building programs and equipment purchases because business management feels the benefits are lost because of this 'penalty' tax or because stockholders are not willing to permit management to incur the tax?

"Do you know that this tax is discriminatory; that it may be working to the disadvantage of the very company that employs you? If business were relieved from this tax, more money would be spent on additions to plants and for equipment. Don't you believe that this would benefit labor all over the country? Don't you believe it would improve business itself?

"Business has grown on its earnings in good times. In bad times it has lived on the earnings of prior years. Any tax which interferes with this is unsound. Do not misunderstand—everyone knows it takes tax collections to meet government expenditures. This is not an argument against taxes, though certainly they are higher than ever before. This is an argument against a tax which is unsound because it interferes with good business judgment and because it is not in the interest of labor or the country as a whole. Congress, at its special session, will probably consider changing tax laws. Labor should insist on the repeal of the tax on undistributed earnings."

November Illinois Society Meeting

Seventy-six men, members and guests, appeared at the Architects Club on November 23 to attend the dinner and monthly meeting of the Illinois Society of Architects. Neglect to make dinner reservations forced quite a number to seek elsewhere for their dinner and return for the meeting, even though the kitchen had stretched the number of dinners given considerably beyond the reservations.

The men were in serious mood for the evening's subject of discussion was "What is Wrong with the Building Industry?" Secretary Fairclough was called upon to give in brief minutes of the Peoria meeting and the minutes of the Sherman Hotel, Chicago, meeting called especially to voice the feeling of resentment toward the Federal undistributed profits tax. The President read a letter from John R. Fugard, attending an A. I. A. Board of Directors meeting in Washington, notifying the Illinois Society that the American Institute's Board had unanimously passed the Illinois Society's resolution demanding repeal of the undistributed profits tax.

Preliminary to the introduction of special speakers, President

Jensen pronounced the building industry conspicuous for being the only important industry not contributing to recovery and that leaders must find the correct diagnosis and apply corrective measures. Long had been the wait for anticipated activity in building construction, and financial papers, bank reviews and the public press were loud in their demands for reasons for this non-activity. So this symposium of various fields upon which the success or failure of recovery leaned had been arranged.

The President introduced as the first speaker P. P. Pullen, Manager of Business Promotion, Chicago Title and Trust Company. Mr. Pullen organized his reasons into six major ailments: First, lack of confidence in the Federal administration; second, automobile ownership preferred to home ownership—a unique condition applicable to the present generation; third, relief and unemployment—a sense of embarrassment in accepting relief having vanished today; fourth, cost of construction, giving statistics in the rise (Detroit being cited as 33% up and Chicago 25% up from 1926 prices); fifth, high and uncertain taxation; sixth, state of disorganization in the building industry insofar as co-ordination between its various branches is concerned.

Russell G. Creviston, President, Producers' Council, Inc., representing manufacturers of building material, was the next speaker. He dwelt upon the internal troubles of the industry, men having confined their thinking to their own particular branch, not realizing that that branch was only one of many units contributing to building activity. As an example of what must be done, he cited a case in his home town of Marion, Indiana, where an old property, through intelligent handling with economical rehabilitation and planting, was a model for the whole community. The speaker had recently returned from an eastern meeting, called by the U. S. Chamber of Commerce, which had convinced that organization that it must become very active through its subsidiary chambers. And what must they do? They must co-ordinate respective branches and the vehicle for this should be the U. S. Construction League. A carefully worked out program was needed and the Chambers were to set about providing this.

Patrick F. Sullivan, President, Chicago Building Trades Council, was next on the program but he had not put in an appearance. He had telephoned the President that he might send a substitute, but the President had replied that they wanted the big boss. So the unions were not represented at the meeting.

The employing contractors were represented by Oscar W. Rosenthal, President, Builders Association of Chicago. Mr. Rosenthal spoke with his usual force, penetration, and oratory. He wanted to emphasize the points made by previous speakers and pointed out oversights and short-comings. He said FHA has exhausted the field of small home buyers; that the building industry fails to understand itself; that the widespread publication of costs was misleading, producing false statements for most communities; that the modernization movement, which he had led with others, had failed as a recovery measure; that credit and confidence were destroyed; and that what must be done was not to cut down the cost per hour of labor when statistics show that the better mechanics earn on an average of from \$1200 to \$1300 a year; that the cost of material could not be cut when so many of the producers still find themselves in the red. What must be done, he thought, was to create a potential market for building construction.

Otto Randolph, President, Associated Builders of Chicago, decried the worship of statistics. He stated that the building and farming industries were the most disorganized; that taking 1926 to 1930 as a standard was fallacious, since those were the years when the sky was the limit; that there must be a return to the simpler and more straightforward practices of earlier days.

W. L. Cohrs, Vice President, First National Bank, spoke from a mortgage banker's point of view. He sketched tenancy since 1933. Adequate funds for furthering building are available, provided other conditions are satisfactory, but his studies had led him to feel that they were most unsatisfactory. The Chicago field was the only one he was thoroughly posted on. He had visited Cleveland and found it active in building apartments. Metropolitan Chicago is far behind, though building proceeds in the suburbs. He objected to the increased cost. He believed a modern building code urgently needed and that income property could not be built unless it figured out to produce a reasonable and safe return.

October and November Chapter Meetings

The Chicago Chapter, A. I. A.'s October 12 meeting was like a play in two acts. Act I: The Julia Lathrop Homes, Diversey parkway and the north branch of the Chicago River. Time: 4 P. M. Act II: Dinner at Zum Goldenen Ochsen, 1578 North Clybourne avenue. Time: 6:30 P. M.

Act I opened with the assembly of perhaps seventy men standing around for someone to lead an inspection through the premises. Mr. DeGolyer, chief architect, and a number of his associates as well as engineers and superintendents, were present. Finally without any formality the company in groups started through these buildings, going from basement to roof. It must be said that in construction and detail these structures are very well done, all that could be expected of a building project of this sort amortized over sixty years. The premises are completed save for refrigerators, lighting fixtures and a few gadgets. Playground surfacing and concrete sidewalks are completed though landscaping has not yet begun. For a more detailed description of this housing, see Architect DeGolyer's article in the June-July 1937 Bulletin.

The company in time reached the great power house where the heating boilers and other machinery for the entire group are housed. Some astonishment was expressed at the elaborate mechanical equipment necessary.

Dusk had now fallen and the company wended its way back to its autos for transportation to Zum Goldenen Ochsen where dinner was to be served.

Act II opened with a good dinner to fifty-six participants. The premises have a Bavarian atmosphere, the walls decorated with figurative paintings inspired by the Norse Saga drawn upon by Richard Wagner in his operas. These decorations may be classed with Bauernkunst. Everyone felt gemütlich and President Merrill gave Howard Raftery credit for the arrangements. Minutes and new business were dispensed with and the President turned to the program which was devoted to the subject of the Julia Lathrop homes, the north side PWA housing group.

The President called upon Mr. DeGolyer who spoke briefly on the subject and circumstances surrounding it. John R. Fugard, until recently president of the Metropolitan Housing Council, invited the company to attend meetings of that body which he thought would be found inspiring. He spoke humorously of his contacts with various groups interested in housing and grew serious on the subject of housing for the colored race, which was pronounced most urgent. He referred to the 8000 dilapidated houses which had been demolished through the Council's efforts. He prepared his hearers for a call on their cooperation to make the forthcoming community drive successful.

President Merrill next called on Sherman Aldrich, General Housing Manager of PWA for Chicago. Mr. Aldrich, besides his other experience, has attended the Government's new school for housing managers. Of the fulsome information he imparted, a few items may be given. The Julia Lathrop homes cost about \$6,100,000, of which \$5,500,000 has gone into buildings. There are 925 family units, the buildings occupying 17% of the 37 acres. Up to October 12, 6,840 applications for the 925 homes available had been received. None has received an assignment to date. The rentals are not yet fixed. In answer to the question: "Will negroes be housed on the premises?" Mr. Aldrich said he did not know. The law, however, says that there shall be no discrimination in the matter of race or color.

Arthur Bohnen, Consultant to PWA and an officer of the Chicago Real Estate Board, was the next speaker. Mr. Bohnen felt that the architects' part in housing was a small, though an important, part. Editor Stowell's article in the September 1937 "American Architect and Architecture" he pronounced the clearest statement yet made on the subdivided responsibility for housing. Among other things, Editor Stowell said: "One thing the architectural profession has learned since it rushed down to Washington with rolls of housing-scheme blueprints and a backer with an option on the acreage: That is, that, with all its difficulties, the physical solution of the problem, the plans and specifications, are as nothing compared to the underlying problems of economics, of federal and local government—in fact, of the whole so-called social system which affects and is affected by housing. While the architect's chief function is,

and will continue to be, to provide a physical plan, he finds himself faced with conditions which involve many, and often conflicting, interests. He has learned that his problem is but a part of that larger one which must reconcile the interests of landowners and tenants, of financiers and artisans, of politicians and sociologists."

Mr. Bohnen, as well as Mr. Aldrich, touched on the controversy between what Chicago thinks it should get in taxes from PWA housing and what the Government thinks it should pay. Mr. Aldrich stated that the Government's offer of \$39,731 a year for maintenance charges plus unpaid back taxes was based on the taxes levied against these properties before PWA entered the picture.* Mr. Bohnen stated that the cost of slums to cities had been over-emphasized and that, after all, every property owner was in one way or another subsidized.

Alfred Shaw, new President of the Metropolitan Housing Council, stated the aims of the Council and, referring to new housing, maintained that the architect must do his part to make the burden of the less favored element in the community lighter by introducing charm wherever possible in his work.

Zachary Davis harked back to what others had said regarding housing the negro. His spirit was one of sadness, if not bitterness, in reflecting on the vast areas in Chicago vacated by the whites under pressure from the growing negro population. Henry K. Holsman followed with an impassioned oration championing the negro in comparative merits with the white man in the matter of housekeeping, cooking, tidiness, good neighborliness. Mr. Fugard was the last speaker and his theme now was the necessity for a new zoning ordinance.

**On November 10 the Chicago Common Council agreed to accept the Federal Government's offer of an annual payment of \$39,731 as service charges on three housing projects.*

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The monthly meeting of the Chicago Chapter, A. I. A. was held at the Architects Club on November 9 with an attendance at dinner of forty-one, increasing after dinner to fifty. Guests out-numbered members. The special speaker on the program was Col. Horatio B. Hackett, retiring Director of Federal PWA Housing under Secretary of the Interior Harold B. Ickes.

The dinner was good. There was little new business beyond a resolution proposed by Elmer C. Jensen to repeal the tax on undistributed profits passed by the last Congress. Mr. Jensen explained the purpose and accomplishments of the Sherman Hotel meeting of November 4 where a resolution asking for repeal had been passed unanimously. The Chapter supported Mr. Jensen's resolution without a dissenting voice. All were unanimous in its support.

President Merrill presided during the evening. He introduced Col. Hackett, who spoke forcefully and rapidly as is befitting a West Pointer. His subject was the Public Works Administration and he dwelt on PWA housing, which—he said—consisted of fifty-seven developments. He stressed the point that the Government's efforts had proved that "housing should be built for the man who can afford to pay the rent that the cost necessitates and that the poor must move into the cast-off housing. New housing cannot be built to replace slums for slum dwellers."

The Colonel's feeling was that architects in smaller communities were less experienced in organizing and co-ordinating their plans for the larger projects than practitioners in the larger centers, and that one of the most valuable accomplishments of PWA housing division was the development of standard plan units and standard specifications. The Government's system of architects' employment had helped through time limitation to force communities to spread the architects' work among many rather than giving more time to a few.

The Colonel's criticism of the A. I. A. seems to be its lack of lobbying for jobs for A. I. A. members, though he did not use the word "lobbying." Other organizations as well as individuals must have camped on the Colonel's doorstep. He next suggested that the A. I. A. become active in helping boost a building program to supplant PWA. Col. Hackett hoped that the 1938 A. I. A. convention at New Orleans would produce constructive plans for increased housing under private initiative.

John R. Fugard followed Col. Hackett. He had some criticism

of the Institute for accomplishing but little for the profession. He felt it a reflection upon the national body that with over 10,000 practicing architects in the country, its membership had shrunk to about 2,000.

Walter Gropius Addresses Chicago Audience

Climaxing the dedication ceremonies of The New Bauhaus, Chicago, on November 9 was the address at the Palmer House of Dr. Walter Gropius, founder of the first Bauhaus in Germany in 1919 and now Professor of Architecture, Harvard University. Dr. Gropius described the social revolution caused by the development of the machine, and the succeeding struggle of coming to terms with the machine—a struggle which cut off creative art in all civilized countries. Design as an end in itself became the philosophy of the day and the dangerous “art for art’s sake” creed was substituted for real creative design. He told how the artist withdrew from the work-a-day world and became a social drone, totally unequipped for the struggle for existence. From the machine came masses of ill-shaped goods, while the artist strained in vain to supply platonic designs.

The craftsman became a merchant, bereaved of the creative part of his work, and the apprentice went into the factory, surrounded by a meaningless mechanization which blunted his creative instincts.

With this opposition to the machine, said Dr. Gropius, national art gradually died. Art and production could be re-united only by accepting the machine as an instrument to relieve man of the most oppressive physical labor and strengthen his hand to give form to his creative impulse.

Future artists and craftsmen are given the same basic training at the New Bauhaus. The educational aim is for a unity of hand work and brain work, an artist able to appreciate the technical as well as the artistic value of his work, a master of form as well as a master of technique, a man with an open mind for the new problems of our time, a man of new vision.

—Dorothy G. Wendt.

Langley Scholarship Awards in Architecture

Eight Edward Langley scholarships aggregating \$4,900 have been awarded by the American Institute of Architects for 1937-38 “to promote higher education in architecture,” it is announced by Edwin Bergstrom of Los Angeles, treasurer of the Institute.

The winners, five architectural draftsmen, one architect, and two graduate students, were chosen from seventy-one competitors. One will make a survey of low-cost single family dwellings and apartment houses, another will pursue graduate studies, and six will travel in Europe and the United States.

The Langley scholars are: Miss Elisabeth Coit, New York City; Joseph Victor Keyes, Washington, D. C.; Douglas Pope Maier, Cleveland Heights, Ohio; John Joseph Brust, Milwaukee, Wis.; Kenneth Leroy Haynes, Des Moines, Iowa; Arthur DuBose McVoy, Gainesville, Fla.; Samuel Wilson, Jr., New Orleans, La.; Paul Eugene Haynes, Los Angeles, Cal.

The Langley scholarships, established by a \$104,000 fund “to develop better, and not more architects” through advanced study, research, and travel, are open to architectural draftsmen, architects, graduate students and teachers of architecture in Canada, where Mr. Langley was born, as well as the United States. Each scholar selects the major use to which he will put his award. No more than ten grants, with none exceeding \$1,500 are made annually.

Eight of the ten regional districts of the Institute are represented in the new scholarship awards. In addition to Mr. Bergstrom, the committee in charge of the awards consists of Albert J. Evers of San Francisco and William G. Nolting of Baltimore.

The American Institute of Architects from January 1 to March 1, 1938, will receive proposals of candidates for Edward Langley Scholarships for the year 1938. Awards will be announced about June 1, 1938.

Egyptian sculptors did not first model a work in clay and then make it of stone; instead, they drew outlines on the four sides of a stone block and then cut into the block by these guide lines.

Chicago Building Code Progress

Progress is being made in the revision of Chicago's building code. Two ordinances recently passed by the City Council adopt the principal engineering chapters of the code prepared by the Thielbar Commission.

The ordinance of October 13 includes revision of the live and wind load requirements, soil bearing values and foundation design, wood construction and reinforced concrete design. This ordinance was published in the Chicago Journal of Commerce, Wednesday, November 10.

The ordinance of November 3 includes revised requirements for masonry, structural steel and chimneys, as previously published in Pamphlet 109, issued by the City Clerk, and later published in the Chicago Journal of Commerce, Tuesday, November 16.

Under the procedure agreed upon by the Council Sub-Committee and the Commission, the entire proposed code will be reviewed chapter by chapter and will be submitted to the Council in groups of related chapters as approved.

Joseph W. McCarthy and Robert Knight, appointed to advise the Sub-Committee, are engaged actively in this work. The Thielbar Commission, the Knight-McCarthy Committee and Alderman McDermott's Sub-Committee are collaborating to prepare the remaining chapters in final acceptable form.

—Charles G. Brookes.

Duties of I. S. A. Committees

The chairman of each committee should aim to hold at least three meetings of his committee each year. Actions proposed by the committees are not to be considered authoritative until approved by the Board of Directors.

BUILDING VALUATION COMMITTEE: To stand in readiness to furnish building valuations on request. The rates to be charged shall be fixed by the Society. The fees are to accrue to those furnishing the services.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION: To initiate educational projects in existing educational institutions that will advance the appreciation of good architecture.

COMMITTEE ON ENTERTAINMENT: To prepare programs for the meetings of the Society.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: To initiate desirable new legislation and to promote changes or abandonment of undesirable legislation affecting the practice of architecture.

MATERIALS AND METHODS COMMITTEE: To investigate new materials and to recommend or condemn same to the Board of Directors.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: To further the increase in membership in the Society and to pass upon and make recommendations to the Board of Directors.

PUBLIC ACTION COMMITTEE: To investigate charges of illegal or improper professional practice and building trades practices that are not in accord with the best interest of the profession and the public, and to recommend action by the Board of Directors.

STATE ART COMMITTEE: To advise the Board of architectural projects initiated by public authorities and to express to the Board approval or disapproval and reasons therefore.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE: To approve of credentials.

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE: To initiate and secure proper publicity of activities of the Society.

BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE: To attend sessions of the Council Committee on new building code and to assist that committee in securing a proper code and to prevent inclusion of undesirable measures.

Architect readers of the Bulletin are reminded that the Bulletin is prepared to answer in its columns through A. H. Marshall, Attorney at Law, legal questions addressed to the editor on the lien law, architects' license law, and the like. This service is without charge.

One thing the country needs is a variety of watermelon to fit the average ice box. Plant scientists are trying to produce one.

Specification Cover Advertising

The Editor: A matter has come to my attention about which I believe the members of the Society should be advised. A concern in Chicago prepares specification covers for the use of architects. These covers are given to architects gratis.

The covers contain advertisements of contractors, material and equipment dealers, and manufacturers. The use of these covers by architects would, in my opinion, appear in very bad taste and might be considered very unethical.

Their use certainly does not add to the dignity of the profession. The literature and correspondence which, I am told, is used in securing these paid advertisements makes the use of the covers doubly reprehensible. The following quotations make this clear:

"As they will no doubt be used as a directory by him to call in contractors to figure work in the future, we are calling on only a few firms whom he has selected as being satisfactory for representation. Part of the money which accrues from advertising space will be used to pay for printed stationery, signs, and office supplies for his office, which is usually considered necessary to secure new work." (The "his" obviously means the architect's.)

Any architect who uses these covers is theoretically getting something for nothing. Actually, he is placing himself under obligations which may not be a financial burden to him but may, under the circumstances, be considered a cost which the owner will pay.

It seems inconceivable that there are architects who will stoop to such petty and unethical means of saving a paltry sum of money.

—*Elmer C. Jensen, President, Illinois Society of Architects.*

Homes of Forty Centuries Ago

Houses in which our ancestors lived at the time of Christ, and 2000 years before them, are shown restored in full size and original condition at a new open-air museum in the North German city of Luebeck. The two houses stand a little distance from each other in the park, each an exact restoration in architecture, building materials and interior furnishings, according to the best information scientists have been able to obtain.

The restoration of the older of the two houses, showing a New Stone Age farmstead of about 2000 B. C., is a rectangular building with a steeply pitched roof of thatch. The ridgepole of the roof is supported by two stout upright posts and projects at either end.

The framework of the house is of stout, rough, unsquared timbers, and the spaces between are filled in with panels of "wattle-and-daub," that is, coarse wicker work plastered with clay. The windows are square and quite small.

Within, there is a central hearth of stones, with a hole in the roof to let the smoke escape. There is no chimney. Shelves against the wall and strings from the beams support the cooking and table utensils—well-shaped and neatly decorated pottery vessels of assorted shapes and sizes. The man's weapons—bow with stone-tipped arrows, spear, and stone war ax—lean against one of the wooden supporting posts. In a second room to the rear are stored supplies and a stone handmill for grinding the grain.

The second house, dated about the beginning of the Christian era, shows a considerable advance over the earlier type, yet reveals also its evolutionary connection with it. It is still rectangular with a straw-thatched, steep-pitched roof, but it is larger and is built entirely of logs. Indeed, it resembles rather strongly the log cabins of pioneer America. It is surrounded by a fence with posts set firmly in the ground and woven together with a lattice of stout branches.

Within, the arrangements and furnishings show vividly the advantages gained by the introduction of iron tools. The inner sides of the logs are squared off, and the supporting posts are also squared. There are benches and a table of good smooth boards, not only well fitted but artistically carved.

The central open fireplace still lacks a chimney, although there is a kind of flue supported on the rafters that helps to lead the smoke toward the smokehole in the roof. Over the fire a big bronze kettle is suspended on iron chains.

The same building was occupied by both the family and their farm animals, as many of the older farmhouses in Europe are today. In those earlier times, this was necessary for the protection of live-

stock from wild beasts and human foes. The central hearth provides the separating zone; at one end the stalls, at the other the living quarters for the family. In the more recent farmhouses, as in Lower Saxony, walls separate living quarters from stable, but in this ancient dwelling the busy housewife tending her fire could keep an eye on how things were going throughout the establishment.

In the living quarters the shelves and other furniture are more numerous than in the Neolithic house, but most of the table and kitchen ware (with the exception of the big bronze kettle) are still of pottery and much the same in pattern as those of 2000 years earlier—as indeed a great deal of pottery is today. A notable feature is a stone quern or handmill for grinding the family's grain.

The man's equipment for war is quite different from that of his Neolithic grandsire; a stout shield and a heavy iron sword hung from pegs in the wall. Iron also gives strength and edge to the tools of peace, the axes, knives, and farm implements.

The development of this type of house in northern Germany has considerable historical and cultural significance. Older than the "square house" over practically the whole of Europe, was the "round house." The latter type of construction was still used in the Celtic countries in early historic times. But the people who lived in square houses gradually extended their borders as far south as Greece and even eastward toward India.

From square-built log houses of the Iron Age, such as the one reconstructed in Luebeck, went forth the sword-armed warriors under Arminius who gave such rough welcome to visitors from Italy among the dark spruce trees of the Teutoburg Forest, just after the opening of the Christian era. From such houses also, a few hundred years later, went that first great tide of emigrants who crossed the North Sea and gave the name of one of their tribes to the land that had before been known only as Britain—Angleland, or England.

—*Science News Letter.*

A happy solution to an architect's perplexing problems would be to retire on a social security pension to a dais of rosebuds under a palm tree in the Virgin Islands and have a Virgin Islander waft breezes at him with a fan of nightingale feathers.

William H. Conway, architect, Springfield, Illinois, I. S. A. member since 1915, died on October 22, 1937.

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Sigurd Anton Rognstad, architect, I. S. A. member since 1926, died in Chicago on November 18 after a long illness. His firm, Michaelsen and Rognstad, had been architects for the Garfield Park Administration Building, Chicago, and designed many smaller structures for the west parks. Some distinctive buildings in Chicago's Chinatown were designed by Mr. Rognstad's firm.

Ethiopians' Holy City Had Skyscrapers

Ethiopians built skyscrapers, not for office buildings but for palaces, in their holy city of Aksum, is the belief of Prof. Daniel Krencker of the University of Berlin. He finds evidence of this by studying six curious stone monuments that have stood in a cemetery of Aksum for over 1,400 years, and that resemble skyscrapers. Tallest of these graveyard skyscrapers, now fallen, stood 109 feet high. Each monument is carved out of a single stone block to resemble a narrow, towering building, with sham doors and windows. Thirteen stories are indicated on the tallest monument.

Comparing these monuments with ruins of ancient palaces in Aksum, Prof. Krencker reports that the palace ground plans resemble the plan of the imitation buildings in the cemetery. Similarities lead him to believe that the ancient holy city of Ethiopia was dominated by tall buildings, which the graveyard stones show in exaggerated narrow form.